(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement made by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister alleging that RAW is planning to assassinate key men in Sri Lankan Government to destabilise it and that some persons have been arrested in connection with the alleged plot by RAW; and

(b) if so, what is the basis on which such an allegation has been made by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and what is the reaction of the Government of India with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As already clarified in a statement of the official spokesman, on February 16, these allegations are entirely baseless.

Proposal to increase the telecast time of the second channel of Madras

197. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the telecast time of the Second Channel, Madras, so that the T.V. Viewers could get alternative programmes; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The telecast time of second channel of Doordarshan Kendra, Madras, has already been increased by one hour with effect from 26th January, 1990.

Technology mission on advancement of Tele-Communications in the country

198. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue their efforts to implement the Technology Mission on advancement of Tele-Communications in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the achievements of Government in improving Tele-Communications facility specially in backward and tribal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The technology mission in the field of telecommunication is called "Mission-Better Communication". It is due to end of 31st March, 1990. However, the main components of the Telecom. Mission are: improvement in quality of service and accessibility to Telecom. facilities. Both these are continuing programmes of the Department of Telecommunications.

(c) Significant achievements have been made in improving the Telecom. facilities, specially in backward and tribal areas, as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Activity	Achievements 1988-89
1.	Telephone exchanges commissioned	580
2.	Exchange capacity added (lines)	1,40,000
3.	New lines provided	1,16,700
4.	Long distance PCOs opened	350
5.	Earth Stations provided	2

Places linked with the National Telephone Network in Orissa

199. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Orissa which have been linked with the National Telephone Network so far; and

(b) the names of places which are likely to be provided with this facility during the year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The following stations in Orissa have been linked with National Telephone Network so far—Angul, Balasore, Baripada, Berhampur (GM), Bhadrak Bhubaneswar, Balangir, Burla, Balugaon, Chatrapur, Chowdwar, Cuttack ,Damanjodi, Dhenkanal, Hirakud, Jagatpur, Jajpur Road, Jeypor (K), Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Mancheswar, Paradeep, Phulbani, Puri; Rourkela, Sambalpur, Sunabeda, Sundergarh, Rayagada.

(b) The following stations are planned to be provided with STD facility during 1990-91: Aska, Bargarh, Chandipur, Gunupur, Joda, Jatni Barbil, Gantabanji, Nowrangpur, Parlakhemundi, Rajgangpur.

Construction of a Coal Berth at Paradeep Port

200. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Paradeep Port may loose substantial business if a separate coal berth is not constructed there;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for construction of such berth;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total quantity of coal imported and exported through Paradeep Port per annum?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH THE ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) As per the indications given by the concerned Ministries, there would be a substantial increase in the handling of thermal coal and a marginal increase in the handling of coking coal at Paradip Port in the 8th Five Year Plan. The present facilities in the port would not be able to handle this throughput. The Working Group for the Port Sector for the 8th Five Year Plan has, therefore, proposed construction of two mechanised coal berths and ancillary facilities at the Port.

(d) The total quantity of coal imported and exported through Paradip Port during the last three years is as below:

	Imported (Metric Tonnes)	Exported (to other Indian Ports) (Metric Tonnes)
1987-88 . . .	12,70,578	10,02,280
1988-89 . . .	13,81,930	09,79,225
1989-90 . . . (upto Feb. 1990)	11,83,852	11,85,276

People killed in Punjab

201. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

SHRI VITHAL BHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons, indicating separately the number of security personnel, killed and injured by terrorists in Punjab during January and February, 1990 as a result of deteriorating situation there;

(b) the number of terrorists killed, injured and apprehended during this period;

(c) the number of persons kidnapped by terrorists during the said period; and